TOMB OF DRACULA

# MARVEL COMICS GROUP™

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# THE TOMB OF DRACULA™

## LORD OF VAMPIRES!

A HALLOWEEN HOLOCAUST!

EXTRA! THE FEAR-FRAUGHT RETURN OF BLADE THE VAMPIRE SLAYER!

AWAY, WHIMPERING PUPS-- DRACULA LIVES AGAIN!

AND HE LIVES TO SLAY!

TRICK OR TREAT

THE NUMBER 1 FEAR MAGAZINE!

Hidden in the *shadows* where legend and reality merge, there are *tales* of a being who has lived *more than five hundred years;* they say he is a creature born not on earth, but in the deepest bowels of *Hell* itself; they say he thrives upon the *blood* of innocents, that he is the King of Darkness...the Prince of Evil and that even the *bravest* man quakes in fear at the merest mention of his name...

Stan Lee PRESENTS: **TOMB OF DRACULA!**™

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# RE-BIRTH!

I'M SORRY, GANG, BUT I CAN'T FIND *ANYTHING* TO HELP US REVIVE DRACULA!

SOMETHING TELLS ME OUR TWIN-FANGED FRIEND MAY HAVE *BITTEN THE DUST* FOR GOOD!

PRINCE OF DARKNESS

VAMPIRE

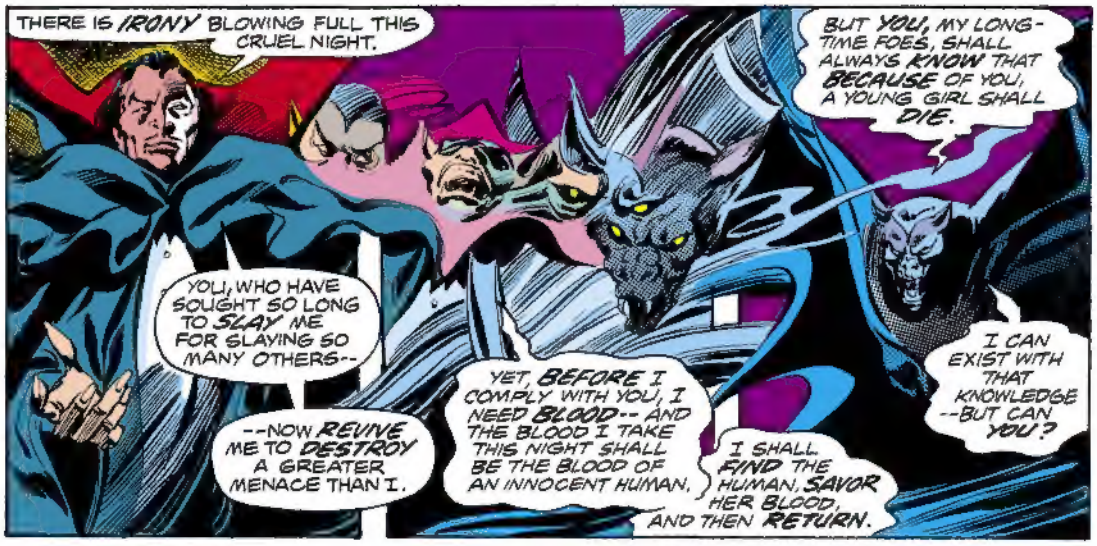
JW124

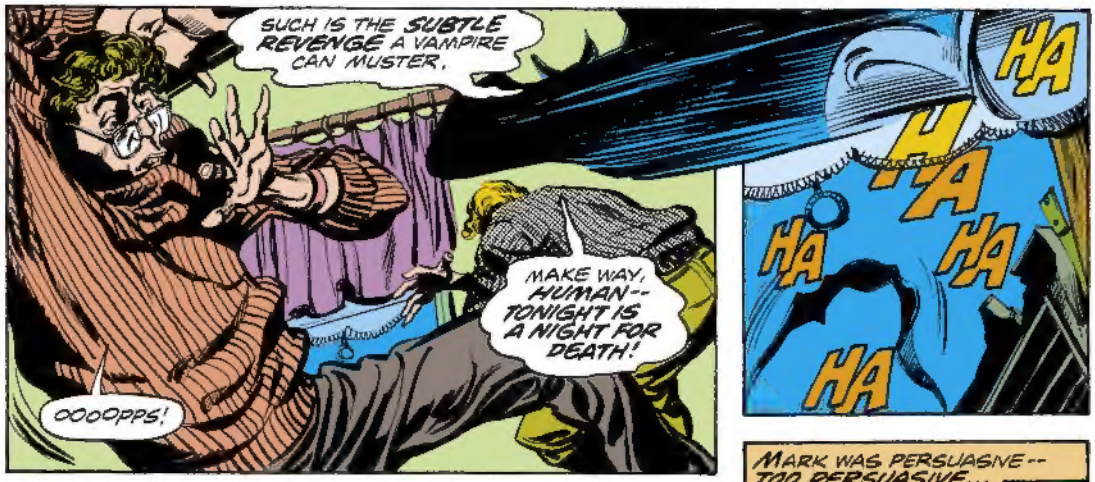
WE DON'T HAVE ANY CHOICE, HAROLD. WE MUST FIND A WAY TO BRING DRACULA BACK FROM THE GRAVE.
OR DOCTOR SUN WILL CONQUER US ALL!
KEEP CHECKING YOUR BOOKS. PERHAPS THERE'S SOME WAY THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN OVERLOOKING.
I SUGGEST WE TRY THE GOVERNMENT AGAIN-- CONTACT SOMEONE IN WASHINGTON.
I STILL DIS-APPROVE OF REGENER-ATING ONE MENACE TO BATTLE ANOTHER.
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO, RACHEL? SUN'S ALREADY PROVEN HE CAN CONTROL THE ARMY.
DO WE SEND IN MORE TROOPS FOR HIM TO TAKE OVER?
LOOK, I DON'T LIKE THE IDEA ANY MORE THAN YOU DO--
--BUT I FEAR THAT DRACULA MAY BE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HELP US NOW.
WELL, I WANT DRACULA ALIVE AGAIN. HE'S SO CUTE-- I ALREADY MISS HIM.
DID YOU KNOW HE OFFERED ME A JOB AS ONE OF HIS VAMPIRES?
I SEE HIM DOWN THERE. GOSH-- EVEN HIS ASHES ARE CUTE.
WE'VE JUST GOT TO FIND A WAY TO BRING HIM BACK TO ME, HAROLD.
I'M LOOKING FOR ONE, AURORA. BELIEVE ME!
VAMPIRE CULT
AH HA! FRIENDS, ROMANS, AND RESIDENTS OF BOSTON PROPER--
--GIVE THE KID WITH GLASSES A GOLD STAR!
I THINK I MAY HAVE FOUND THE ANSWER WE'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR.

IT'S HERE, UNDER "VAMPIRE REVIVIFICATION."
IT SAYS THAT "EITHER THE BLOOD OR THE TEARS OF A VIRGIN-PURE CAN RE-ANIMATE THE ASHES OF A VAMPIRE-DAMNED."
OH, DRACULA, PLEASE COME BACK TO ME. I MISS YOU. I REALLY DO.
DRACULA? DO YOU HEAR ME?
PLEASE COME BACK TO ME.
THEY'VE GONE OUT OF STYLE LIKE THE ICE-MAN AND G-RATED MOVIES.
OH WELL, BACK TO THE OLD READING ROOM, I GUESS.
OH WELL, I THOUGHT WE HAD SOMETHING.
BUT WHERE THE HECK ARE WE GOING TO FIND A "VIRGIN-PURE" THESE DAYS?
THE URN--IT'S GETTING HOT!
OH MY GOODNESS. I CAN'T HOLD ON!
SMASH
S-SOMETHING'S HAPPENING INSIDE THAT URN. IT'S BEGINNING TO GLOW.
AND IF IT MEANS WHAT I THINK IT DOES--
I'M GOING TO BE SICK... I REALLY AM!

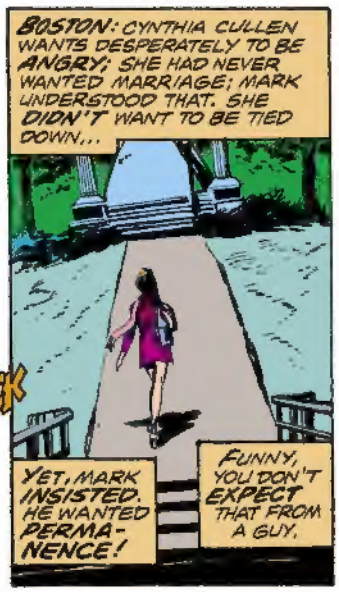
THE ROOM'S GETTING HOT.
I THINK A FIRE'S STARTING!
BUT I CAN'T LET IT REACH MY RESEARCH BOOKS--IF I CAN'T FIND STUFF TO STEAL IN THOSE BOOKS--
--I'M OUT OF A JOB!
BUT THE FIERY GLOW DOES RAGE...
...AND BURNS...
...AND GROWS--
...AND ENVELOPES THE SMALL STUDIO APARTMENT.
RACHEL GAZES HELPLESSLY THROUGH CLENCHED, BITTER EYES. SHE KNOWS WHAT IS HAPPENING--AND ITS VERY THOUGHT SICKENS HER.
THE ASHES FUSE TOGETHER FORMING BONE. AND ON THE BONE, MUSCLE TISSUE GROWS. AND OVER THE TISSUE, FLESH FORMS, AND OVER THE FLESH, THE NIGHT-BLACK CLOAK OF A BEING WHO HAD BEEN TRULY DEAD RUSTLES AS THE BODY BENEATH IT TWITCHES IN ITS UNEXPECTED GRASPING AT LIFE.
HAROLD'S FLESH BEGINS TO SIZZLE, AND THE STENCH OF BURNT MEAT STRUGGLES ITS WAY THROUGH THE ROOM.
QUINCY HARKER CHOKES ON THE CHARCOAL STINK AS HE GRABS FOR A HANDKERCHIEF TO HOLD CLOSE TO HIS NOSE AND MOUTH.
AURORA AND FRANK STARE ALMOST OBLIVIOUS TO THE SWIRLING SMOKE AND ASH THAT RISES TORNADO-LIKE IN THE APARTMENT.
HE LIVES AGAIN! DRACULA TRULY LIVES AGAIN!

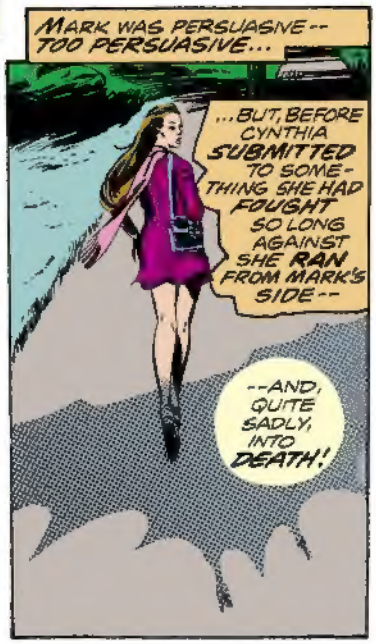
I HAVE SEEN HIM RISE FROM THE ASHES OF DECAYED BONES SO MANY TIMES BEFORE...
...YET, STILL TO THIS DAY, I FIND THE CONCEPT SO IMPOSSIBLE--THAT I CANNOT COMPREHEND IT... I CANNOT BELIEVE IT.
AND, AS I HAVE ALSO DONE SO MANY TIMES BEFORE, I ASK THE QUESTION: HOW CAN I BATTLE A BEING WHO CAN LIVE AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN?
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, QUINCY, BUT ALL I ASK MYSELF IS HOW I GOT INTO THIS MESS.
PFFFF
WOULD YOU BELIEVE THAT BRINGING DRACULA BACK COST ME MY BEST JACKET?
EVEN IF IS A "ROBERT HALL" REJECT.
SO, I LIVE ONCE AGAIN, AND I STAND REVITALIZED IN THE HOUSE OF MY ENEMIES.
GRR
GRRR
DOWN, SAINT--
SPEAK, HARKER--I AM QUITE AWARE THAT YOU WOULD NEVER GIVE LIFE TO MY BONES UNLESS THERE IS A REASON.
THERE IS A REASON, DRACULA--DOCTOR SUN!
ENOUGH. I COMPREHEND FULLY.
I OWE THAT FLOATING BRAIN A TASTE OF MY VENGEANCE.
YET, FIRST--YOU, WOMAN. I SENSE THAT YOU ARE THE ONE WHO REVIVED ME.
ME? REALLY?
WOW!
YOU HAVE SAVED DRACULA'S LIFE TWICE, AND FOR THAT YOU HAVE EARNED MY THANKS--AND MY PROTECTION.
ER, DRACULA--SIR?
I STILL HAVE SOME WHOLE BLOOD IN THE FRIDGE. WOULD YOU CARE FOR ANY? SIR?
I DO NEED BLOOD, BUT IT SHALL NOT BE SPOON-FED TO ME FROM A BOTTLE.
TONIGHT DRACULA LIVES! AND TONIGHT--DRACULA KILLS!

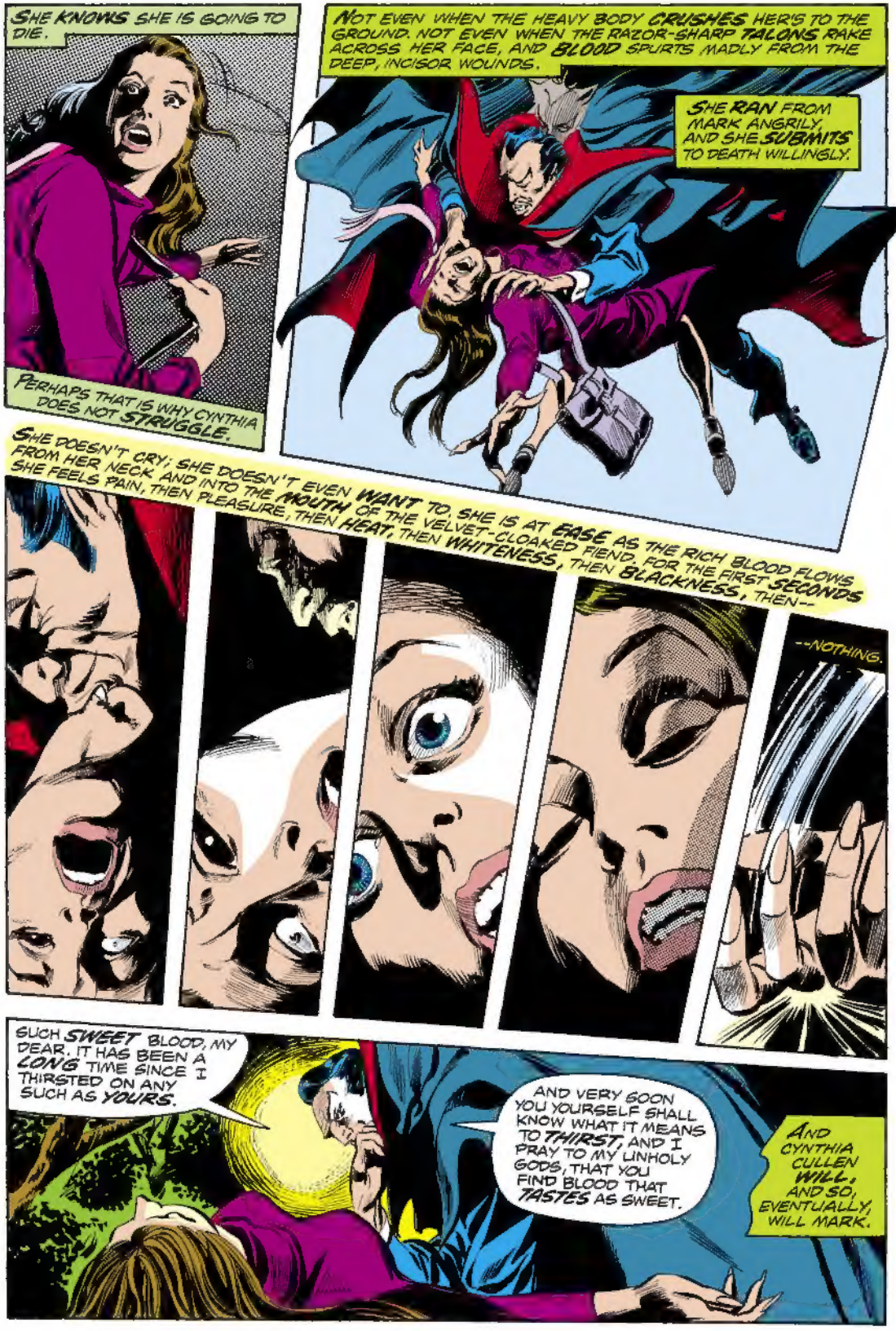

THERE IS IRONY BLOWING FULL THIS CRUEL NIGHT.
BUT YOU, MY LONG-TIME FOES, SHALL ALWAYS KNOW THAT BECAUSE OF YOU, A YOUNG GIRL SHALL DIE.
YOU, WHO HAVE SOUGHT SO LONG TO SLAY ME FOR SLAYING SO MANY OTHERS--
--NOW REVIVE ME TO DESTROY A GREATER MENACE THAN I.
YET, BEFORE I COMPLY WITH YOU, I NEED BLOOD-- AND THE BLOOD I TAKE THIS NIGHT SHALL BE THE BLOOD OF AN INNOCENT HUMAN.
I SHALL FIND THE HUMAN, SAVOR HER BLOOD, AND THEN RETURN.
I CAN EXIST WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE --BUT CAN YOU?


SUCH IS THE SUBTLE REVENGE A VAMPIRE CAN MUSTER.
MAKE WAY, HUMAN-- TONIGHT IS A NIGHT FOR DEATH!
OOOOPPS!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA

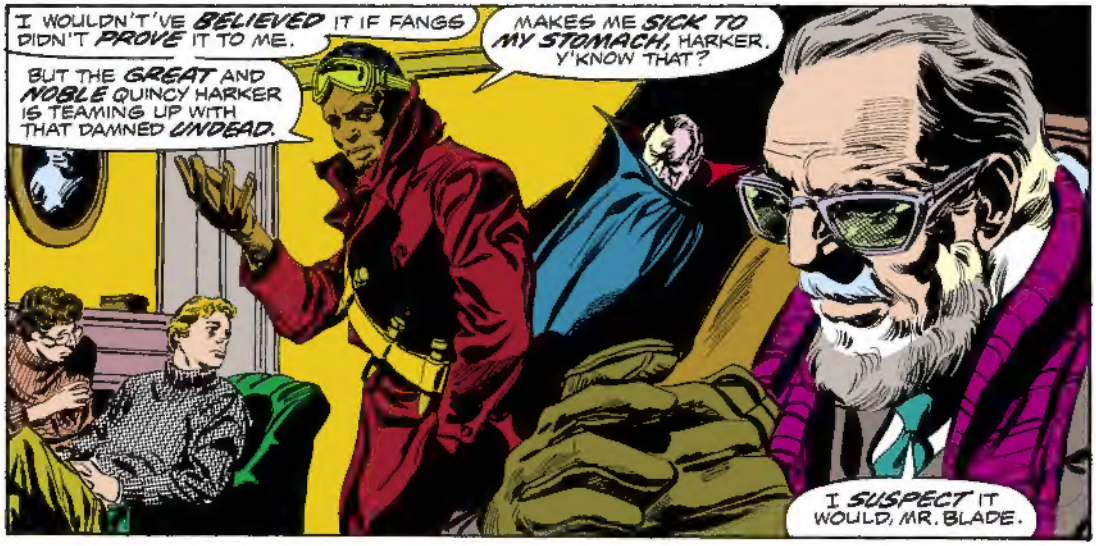
NO, RACHEL, DON'T SAY IT. I KNEW WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN. I KNEW AND YET THERE WAS NO OTHER CHOICE.
AND AGAIN A PART OF ME DIES. OH LORD--WHEN WILL IT END? WHEN?
WHEN?
CRACK


BOSTON: CYNTHIA CULLEN WANTS DESPERATELY TO BE ANGRY; SHE HAD NEVER WANTED MARRIAGE; MARK UNDERSTOOD THAT. SHE DIDN'T WANT TO BE TIED DOWN...
YET, MARK INSISTED. HE WANTED PERMA-NENCE!
FUNNY, YOU DON'T EXPECT THAT FROM A GUY.


MARK WAS PERSUASIVE-- TOO PERSUASIVE...
...BUT, BEFORE CYNTHIA SUBMITTED TO SOME-THING SHE HAD FOUGHT SO LONG AGAINST SHE RAN FROM MARK'S SIDE--
--AND, QUITE SADLY, INTO DEATH!


SHE KNOWS SHE IS GOING TO DIE.
PERHAPS THAT IS WHY CYNTHIA DOES NOT STRUGGLE.
NOT EVEN WHEN THE HEAVY BODY CRUSHES HER'S TO THE GROUND. NOT EVEN WHEN THE RAZOR-SHARP TALONS RAKE ACROSS HER FACE, AND BLOOD SPURTS MADLY FROM THE DEEP, INCISOR WOUNDS.
SHE RAN FROM MARK ANGRILY, AND SHE SUBMITS TO DEATH WILLINGLY.
SHE DOESN'T CRY; SHE DOESN'T EVEN WANT TO. SHE IS AT EASE AS THE RICH BLOOD FLOWS FROM HER NECK AND INTO THE MOUTH OF THE VELVET-CLOAKED FIEND. FOR THE FIRST SECONDS SHE FEELS PAIN, THEN PLEASURE; THEN HEAT, THEN WHITENESS, THEN BLACKNESS, THEN--
--NOTHING.
SUCH SWEET BLOOD, MY DEAR. IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I THIRSTED ON ANY SUCH AS YOURS.
AND VERY SOON YOU YOURSELF SHALL KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO THIRST, AND I PRAY TO MY UNHOLY GODS, THAT YOU FIND BLOOD THAT TASTES AS SWEET.
AND CYNTHIA CULLEN WILL, AND SO, EVENTUALLY, WILL MARK.

HOLD ON, MAN-- YOU AIN'T DOIN' NOTHIN'!
RRRIIIP
BLADE!
SO, MY BLACK PURSUER, YOU'VE DARED FOLLOW ME TO AMERICA?
DON'T THINK YOU'RE SUCH A HOT-SHOT, FANGS-- I DIDN'T TREK THREE THOUSAND MILES FOR THE SLIMY LOOKS OF YOU--
--BUT FOR THE WHITE-HAIRED VAMP THAT KILLED MY MOTHER!
THAT VOICE--
IT CAN ONLY BELONG TO ONE HUMAN CUR--
BUT SEEIN' AS TO HOW YOU'RE RIGHT IN FRONT A' ME...
...I AIN'T GONNA JUST SAY MY HELLOS AND LEAVE.
DIG?
YOUR ILLITERATE VOCABULARY ONLY SHOWS YOU FOR THE FOOL YOU ARE.
UNNGGHHH!!
NOW, DROP YOUR RIDICULOUS WOODEN KNIFE...
FOR, I MUST RETURN TO QUINCY HARKER IMMEDIATELY..
...AND COMBINE OUR FORCES TO DO BATTLE WITH DOCTOR SUN!
BUT, LIKE YOURSELF, I HAVE OTHER TASKS WHICH AWAIT ME.
TASKS FAR MORE VITAL THAN WASTING MY TIME WITH YOU.
COMBINE FORCES?
YOU AND HARKER?
WHAT GIVES, FANGS--WHAT GIVES?


I WOULDN'T'VE BELIEVED IT IF FANGS DIDN'T PROVE IT TO ME.
BUT THE GREAT AND NOBLE QUINCY HARKER IS TEAMING UP WITH THAT DAMNED UNDEAD.
MAKES ME SICK TO MY STOMACH, HARKER. Y'KNOW THAT?
I SUSPECT IT WOULD, MR. BLADE.

BUT, THERE ARE REASONS -- IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO FORM THIS TRUCE,
AND IT PAINS ME AS IT DOES YOU, MR. BLADE -- BUT WHAT MUST BE ACCOMPLISHED CAN BE DONE NO OTHER WAY.

DON'T GIVE ME NO BULL STORY, HARKER -- FANGS TOLD ME ABOUT THIS SUN CREEP,
AND I DON'T BUY IT -- BUT TRUTH TO TELL, IT AIN'T MY PROBLEM.
I'VE HEARD OF YOUR PROBLEMS, MR. BLADE -- YOU WERE WANTED BY THE POLICE -- FOR MURDER, I UNDERSTAND.

A SHAM, POPS -- COMPLETE AND TOTAL!
A VAMPIRE COVEN SET ME UP, AND THE FACT IS -- IT WAS CONTROLLED BY...

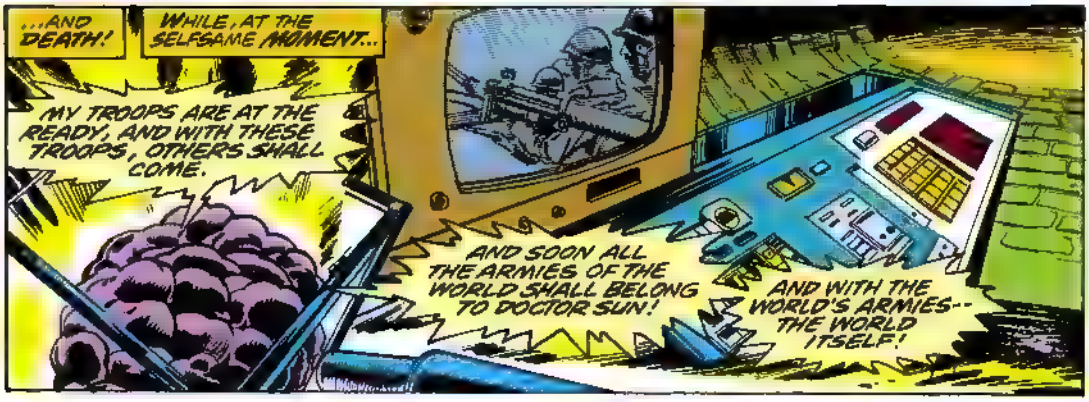
...THAT BIG ENCHILADA HIMSELF.
I GOTTA PAY YOU FOR THAT ONE, FANGS -- AN' FOR WHAT YOUR CREEPS DID TO SAFRON!*
AH, YES, THE LEGION. THE POOR FOOLS, I GAVE THEM SOME POWER TO ACT ON THEIR OWN, AND THEY SQUANDERED IT.
BUT KNOW THIS, MY FRIEND, THEIR SCHEME WAS NOT MINE.
HAD IT BEEN, YOU AND YOUR BLACK TRAMP WOULD NOW BE DEAD!
*AS DETAILED IN MARVEL PREVIEW #3. -- MARV.

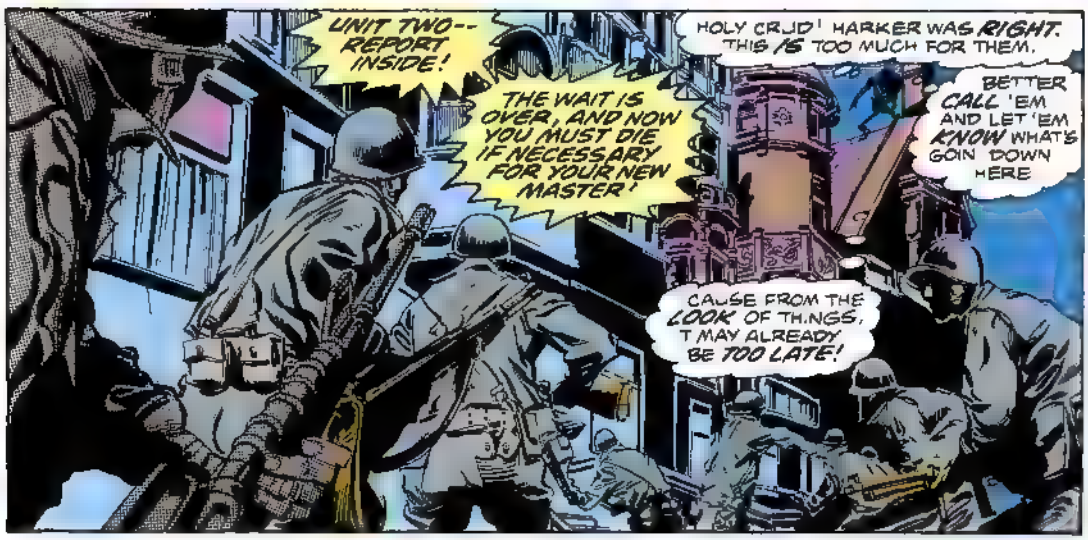
BUT THEIR SCHEME FAILED, AND NOW ANOTHER PLOT FROM ANOTHER FOE, MUST FAIL AS WELL.
FOR, THE DESTRUCTION OF DOCTOR SUN IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN MY SLAYING YOU, BLADE.
THAT SINKS IT, MAN--YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PARTNER AND STUFF 'IM, HARKER
BLADE!
AS FER ME--I GOT OTHER THINGS TO DO --LIKE FIND THAT STINKIN' MOTHER-KILLER.
I TRACED H M TO BOSTON, AND MAN, I GOTTA FIND HIM, AND I GOTTA KILL HIM!
WE HAVE HAD OUR DIFFICUL-TIES IN THE PAST, BUT DEFEATING DOCTOR SUN WILL TAKE ALL OUR RESOURCES
I DO NOT WISH TO, BUT IF I MUST I WILL BEG YOU TO STAY AND HELP US.
YOU BROUGHT FANGS BACK TO LIFE, HARKER, NOW YOU GO PLAY WITH HIM--ALONE!
MAYBE YOU FORGOT WHAT WE'VE BEEN FIGHTING THAT KILLER FOR -
--OR, ARE YOU WAITIN FOR HIM TO BITE A CHUNK OUTTA THIS KID'S NECK?
LIKE HE D.D THAT KID IN THE PARK?
WANNA SEE HER CORPSE, HARKER?
DRACULA WOULDN T HARM ME, I LOVE HIM
BABY, HE'D SLAUGHTER YOU WITHOUT EVEN THINK-ING ABOUT IT F HE HAD A WHIM TO.
AN THEN HE'D LICK YOUR BONES DRY JUST FOR FUN!
ENOUGH! GET OUT OF HERE, BLADE-- GET OUT!
WE DON'T NEED YOU-- AND WE DON'T WANT YOUR HELP

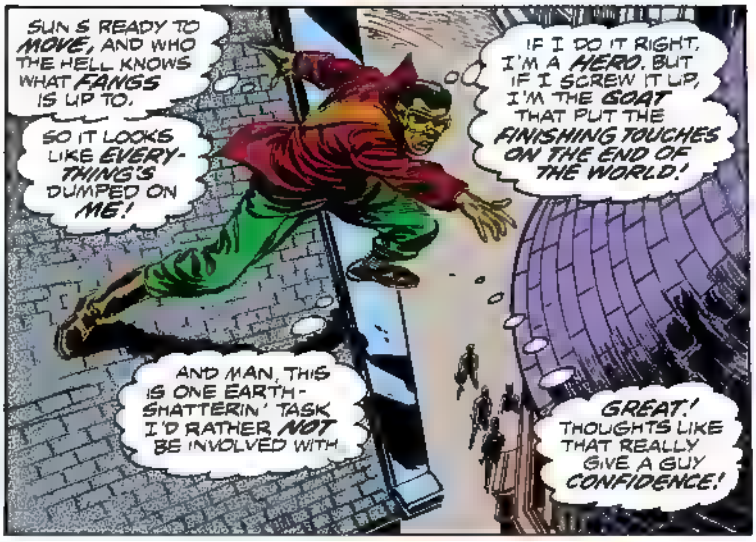
I SPLITTIN', BEAUTIFUL, AN WHILE I'M OUT SEARCH N' FOR A KILLER, YOU CAN PLAY YOUR GAMES WITH DRAC
DON'T BOTHER SHOWIN' ME THE WAY OUT, GANG --I CAN FIND THE DOOR MYSELF.
TOODALOO, CHUCKLES. HAVE FUN!
A TOTALLY INFURIATING MAN.
YEAH. A MILLION LAUGHS
SLAM
WAS HE RIGHT, DRACULA? WOULD YOU REALLY KILL ME LIKE HE SAID?
OF COURSE, MY DEAR, BUT I'M NOT ABOUT TO AS LONG AS YOU AMUSE ME
SEE, HAROLD? I TOLD YOU DRACULA REALLY CARED ABOUT ME.
AURORA SOMETIMES I REALLY WORRY ABOUT YOU
WE'VE BEEN SHOOTING THE BREEZE TOO LONG. I WANT ACTION!
AHH, IT SEEMS AS IF MY FOPPISH DESCENDANT HAS ALTERED HIS COWARDLY ATTITUDE OF LATE
ONCE HE WOULD HAVE RUN WHEN DANGER BECKONED.
PERHAPS THERE IS SOME OF MY BLOOD IN YOU AFTER ALL, DRAKE. JUST PERHAPS.
AND YOU ARE CORRECT. WE MUST BEGIN. AND I DO SO BY CLAIMING THE SILVER-STAKED ONE AS MINE!
TOO LATE, DRACULA I ALREADY GOT HIM--WITH THIS.
YOUR TOY BOW AND ARROW FINALLY WORKED? INCREDIBLE!
AND HERE I THOUGHT YOU WERE SIMPLY WASTING AWAY YOUR TIME WITH IT.
AH WELL, VERY GOOD-- AND TO WORK!
YOU REMAIN HERE WHILE I SCOUT SUN'S HIDEOUT!
A SOLDIER LEARNS THAT PREPARATION TAKES ONLY TIME, AND THAT TIME MAY SAVE LIVES!
WAIT AND I WILL RETURN!

I MUST BE OUTTA MY MIND, BUT I GOTTA FOLLOW THAT BLOOD-SUCKER--
--JUST TA MAKE SURE HE DOESN'T SCREW UP HARKER AND THE OTHERS.
YOU'RE GETTING SOFT N YOUR OLD AGE BLADE. YOU KNOW THAT?
MEANWHILE...
REMEMBER, I WANT YOU BACK HERE IN AN HOUR. YOU UNDERSTAND THAT, YOU TWO?
BILLY?
YES, MOM
ANNA?
YEAH, MOMMA! BUT TOMORROW'S SATURDAY, AND HALLOWEEN COMES ONLY ONCE A YEAR. MOM?
I KNOW IT'S SATURDAY, BUT I STILL WANT YOU BOTH BACK HOME
NOW HAVE FUN, AND REMEMBER--"TRICK OR TREAT!"
YEAH, WE KNOW, MOMMA
HIS ARMY SURROUNDS ONLY THE FRONT OF THE BROWNSTONE--WHICH MEANS WE CAN ATTACK FROM THE REAR!
"WE"!? I'M BEGINNING TO SPEAK LIKE THOSE FOOLS.
I HAVE NO INTENTION OF LETTING MY BATTLE BE SHARED.
THOSE CLODS WOULD BE IN THE WAY--
WHILE, BY MYSELF, I CAN MOVE UNHINDERED!
HARKER! VAN HELSING! WAIT FOR ME TO RETURN VICTORIOUSLY!
AND THEN WE SHALL CELEBRATE MY VICTORY WITH A SECOND VICTORY--
--WITH YOUR DEATHS!

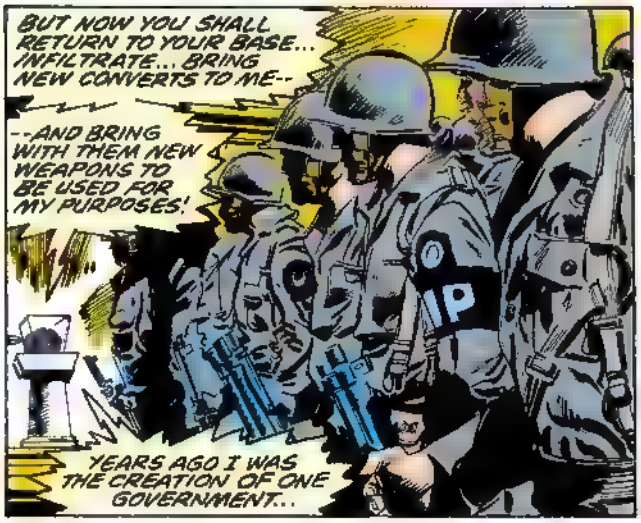
A GUARD! I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THAT SUN HAD POSITIONED ONE THERE. DRAKE TOLD ME THAT HE AND VAN HELSING CAME THIS WAY TO RETRIEVE MY ASHES!
BAM
BUT SUN SHOULD HAVE INFORMED HIS SOLDIERS THAT MERE BULLETS CAN NOT KILL ONE WHO IS ALREADY DEAD!
THOUGH POSSESSING THAT KNOWLEDGE DOES YOU LITTLE GOOD, DOES IT LITTLE MAN?
THE GUARD STARES IN TERROR AS THE VAMPIRE LORD'S FANGS LOWER THEMSELVES ABOUT HIS NECK. HE FEELS THE PAIN FOR ONLY AN INSTANT BEFORE HE SUCCUMBS TO-- UNCONSCIOUSNESS...


...AND DEATH!
WHILE, AT THE SELFSAME MOMENT...
MY TROOPS ARE AT THE READY, AND WITH THESE TROOPS, OTHERS SHALL COME.
AND SOON ALL THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD SHALL BELONG TO DOCTOR SUN!
AND WITH THE WORLD'S ARMIES-- THE WORLD ITSELF!

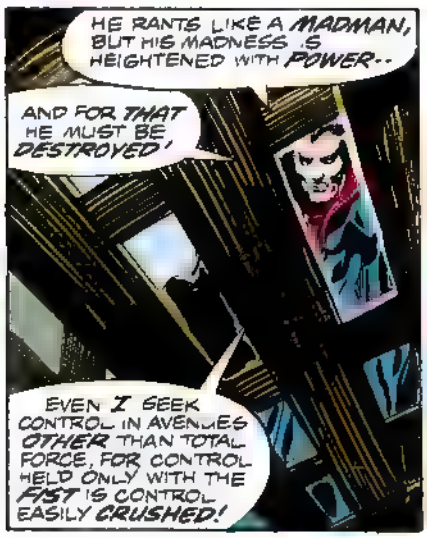

UNIT TWO-- REPORT INSIDE!
THE WAIT IS OVER, AND NOW YOU MUST DIE IF NECESSARY FOR YOUR NEW MASTER!
HOLY CRUD! HARKER WAS RIGHT. THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR THEM.
BETTER CALL 'EM AND LET 'EM KNOW WHAT'S GOIN' DOWN HERE
CAUSE FROM THE LOOK OF THINGS, I MAY ALREADY BE TOO LATE!


SUN S READY TO MOVE, AND WHO THE HELL KNOWS WHAT FANGS IS UP TO.
SO IT LOOKS LIKE EVERY-THING'S DUMPED ON ME!
IF I DO IT RIGHT, I'M A HERO. BUT IF I SCREW IT UP, I'M THE GOAT THAT PUT THE FINISHING TOUCHES ON THE END OF THE WORLD!
AND MAN, THIS IS ONE EARTH-SHATTERIN' TASK I'D RATHER NOT BE INVOLVED WITH
GREAT! THOUGHTS LIKE THAT REALLY GIVE A GUY CONFIDENCE!

WHILE...
OUR POWER IS SMALL -- OUR DESIRE: GREAT!
AND YOU, MY NEWLY WON TROOPS, SHALL BE THE VANGUARD OF MY POWER!


BUT NOW YOU SHALL RETURN TO YOUR BASE... INFILTRATE... BRING NEW CONVERTS TO ME--
--AND BRING WITH THEM NEW WEAPONS TO BE USED FOR MY PURPOSES!
YEARS AGO I WAS THE CREATION OF ONE GOVERNMENT..

...BUT SOON ALL GOVERNMENTS WILL BE MINE... TO CONTROL--
--TO CRUSH!


HE RANTS LIKE A MADMAN, BUT HIS MADNESS IS HEIGHTENED WITH POWER--
AND FOR THAT HE MUST BE DESTROYED!
EVEN I SEEK CONTROL IN AVENUES OTHER THAN TOTAL FORCE, FOR CONTROL HELD ONLY WITH THE FIST IS CONTROL EASILY CRUSHED!

TOTAL CONTROL IS SOMETHING TO BE MOLDED, SHAPED THEN RESHAPED AND GIVEN THE ILLUSION THAT IT IS GOOD!
AND THAT ILLUSION MUST BE CONSTANTLY FED, FOR WHEN THE "GOOD" BECOMES AN OBVIOUS ILLUSION, AGAIN IT CAN -- AND WILL -- BE CRUSHED!
IF ONE WISHES TO RULE WITH A HAND OF IRON, ONE MUST MAKE IT APPEAR THAT THE HAND HOLDS ONLY SUGAR!

NOW GO--TAKE THE WEAPONS I'VE SUPPLIED YOU WITH--
--FOR THE VAMPIRE STILL RUNS LOOSE, AND YOUR WEAPONS CONTAIN BULLETS COATED WITH SILVER!
WHEN HE IS SEEN, HE MUST BE DESTROYED!
GO NOW, DO WHAT YOU HAVE BEEN SO ORDERED TO DO!
SORRY, BROTHER, BUT YOU'RE NOT USIN' THAT LITTLE PLAYTHING ON FANGS--
--NOT RIGHT NOW, AT LEAST!
NOT THAT I NECESSARILY WANT TO WORK WITH THAT KILLER, BUT UNTIL HE'S FINISHED DOIN' WHAT HARKER WANTS HIM TO DO--
DRACULA'S GONNA BE WALKIN' WITH HIS OWN POWER!
DIG?
DARKNESS HIDES THE SWELLING MIST WHICH SWIRLS WITH DIRECTION TOWARDS THE CENTER OF SUN'S OPERATION.
ANOTHER CORRIDOR IS PASSED, DOWN A SECOND LEVEL THE INTANGIBLE MIST SWOOPS.
TOWARDS SUN...ALWAYS TOWARDS SUN...
BUT, THERE ARE TIMES THE JOURNEY MUST BE HALTED. TIMES WHEN THE MIST MUST TAKE FORM AND WEIGHT.
THE PITTERING OF WATER DROPLETS DRIPPING DOWN THE ROCKY CEILING IS A CONSTANT, ALMOST SILENT NOISE AFTER INCESSANT REPETITION...
...BUT THE NEW SOUNDS, OF RUSTLING CLOTH, OF GRINDING, HUNGRY TEETH, OF FOOTSTEPS MARKING A DEADLY PATH-- THEY GO UNHEARD...

...UNTIL IT IS TOO LATE.
FAR TOO LATE.
THE VAMPIRE-LORD SAYS NOTHING AS THE ALMOST MINDLESS WARRIORS REACT TO HIM IN DIMWITTED HORROR.
BUT DRACULA REACTS QUICKLY, AND BEFORE THE POOR SOLDIERS CAN GIVE VOICE TO THEIR FEARS--
--THEY ARE DEAD!
AT LEAST, MOST OF THEM ARE.
POW POW POW
BULLETS? SOME MORE OF SUN'S ZOMBIES?
BUT THESE MUST BE NEW RECRUITS --FOR, THEY STILL LACK A FORMIDABLE WEAPON TO FIGHT ME.
A SHAME THEN--
--FOR THEM, AT LEAST.
FOR, THOUGH THEY ARE BUT PAWNS IN THIS WAR--
--THE INNOCENT ALWAYS MUST DIE WHEN BATTLE IS WAGED!
SUCH HAVE WARS ALWAYS BEEN. AND SUCH SHALL IT ALWAYS BE!
A STRUGGLE IS ONLY ENDED WHEN THE LAST FOOT SOLDIER HAS BREATHED HIS FINAL BREATH...
...WHEN THE LAST WEAPON IS SPENT...
...AND THE GENERALS ARE FORCED TO MEET!

AND THIS WAR WILL UNDOUBTEDLY END WHEN YOU HAVE NO MORE FODDER TO WASTE ON ME, SUN.
SOLDIER!
YOU HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO SLAY THE VAMPIRE DRACULA!
BUT YOU ARE THE VAMPIRE! YOU ARE DRACULA!
YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS, SOLDIER!
OBEY THEM! INSTANTLY!
YOUR NUMBERS DIMINISH QUICKLY, SUN, AND THAT MEANS THE TIME OF FINAL BATTLE APPROACHES.
AND, WHEN THAT HOUR COMES, SO SHALL COME VICTORY!
BAM
BUT FOR ONLY ONE OF US.
THAT IS TRUE, VAMPIRE. ONLY ONE OF US SHALL SURVIVE THIS MEETING!
AND THAT ONE MUST BE--
BUZZZ
EH?
I DON'T LIKE THIS, BILLY--THERE ARE SOLDIERS IN THE FRONT YARD.
MAYBE THE OWNER WON'T LIKE BEING BOTHERED.
BUZZ
LET'S GO, BILLY, PLEASE?
NO, ANNA. I WANNA SEE WHO LIVES HERE.

YOUR DOORBELL, SUN. WERE YOU EXPECTING SOMEONE--?
BUZZZ
PERHAPS SOME LAST MINUTE AID?
I NEED NO HELP, VAMPIRE.
AT LEAST NOT TO DESTROY YOU!
TWICE BEFORE YOU WERE HELD IN MY POWER--BUT THIS TIME YOU SHALL BE KILLED! FOREVER!
BOTH TIMES YOU HELD ME I WAS WEAKENED--
--FIRST MY STRENGTH WAS SAPPED FROM LACK OF BLOOD, AND THEN MY POWERS WERE BEING DRAINED BY YOU.*
BUT NOW I AM AT FULL POWER--AND I WILL NOT BE SO EASILY DEFEATED!
AND THIS TIME YOU'VE GOT SOMEONE FIGHTIN' WITH YA, FANGS.
IT'S TIME NOW--
--TO WIPE OUT DOCTOR SUN!
BLADE?!!
*ISSUES 20, 21 AND NOW.--METICULOUS MARV.
NO ONE'S ANSWERING, AND I'M SURE I HEAR SOMETHING IN THERE.
BUZZZ
SOUNDS LIKE SOMEONE'S FIGHTING.
GOSH, I GUESS THEY'RE TOO BUSY TO CARE ABOUT US.
GEE, WHO KNOWS WHAT WE WOULDA GOT IF WE SAW THE OWNER OF THIS PLACE.
BUT I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW, ANNA.
I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW.
NEXT ISSUE! A FINAL BATTLE WAGED!